

CLAIMS:

1. A server apparatus (20), comprising:
receiving means (21) for receiving broadcast signals;
first processing means (28, 29) for generating first analog signals responsive to said received signals;
second processing means (31-33) for generating second analog signals responsive to said received signals;
wherein the first analog signals have a different encoding than the second analog signals, and said first analog signals are provided to a first client device (50) via a transmission medium connecting said server apparatus (20) and said first client device (50); and
wherein said second analog signals are provided to a second client device (60) via said transmission medium connecting said server apparatus (20) and said second client device (60).
2. The server apparatus (20) of claim 1, wherein said transmission medium includes RG-59 cable.
3. The server apparatus (20) of claim 1, wherein said broadcast source includes a satellite source.
4. The server apparatus (20) of claim 1, wherein said broadcast source includes a digital terrestrial source.
5. The server apparatus (20) of claim 1, wherein said receiving means (21) processes said received signals to generate a digital transport stream.

6. The server apparatus (20) of claim 5, wherein said first processing means (28, 29) includes:

A/V processing means (28) for processing said digital transport stream to generate analog baseband signals; and

modulating means (29) for modulating said analog baseband signals to generate said first analog signals.

7. The server apparatus (20) of claim 5, wherein said second processing means (31-33) includes:

encoding means (31) for encoding said digital transport stream to generate encoded digital signals;

digital-to-analog converting means (32) for converting said encoded digital signals to analog baseband signals; and

modulating means (33) for modulating said analog baseband signals to generate said second analog signals.

8. The server apparatus (20) of claim 1, further comprising:

control means (35) for detecting available frequency bands on said transmission medium; and

wherein said available frequency bands are used to provide said first analog signals to said first client device (50) and to provide said second analog signals to said second client device (60).

9. The server apparatus (20) of claim 8, wherein said control means (35) scans a plurality of frequency bands on said transmission medium to detect said available frequency bands.

10. The server apparatus (20) of claim 8, wherein said control means (35) detects said available frequency bands based on a user input which selects said available frequency bands.

11. A method (400) for distributing signals from a server apparatus to a first client device and a second client device, comprising steps of:
receiving signals from a broadcast source (410);
generating first analog signals responsive to said received signals (430);
generating second analog signals responsive to said received signals (440),
wherein the first analog signals have a different encoding than the second analog signals;
providing said first analog signals to said first client device via a transmission medium connecting said server apparatus and said first client device (450); and
providing said second analog signals to said second client device via said transmission medium connecting said server apparatus and said second client device (460).

12. The method (400) of claim 11, wherein said transmission medium includes RG-59 cable.

13. The method (400) of claim 11, wherein said broadcast source includes a satellite source.

14. The method (400) of claim 11, wherein said broadcast source includes a digital terrestrial source.

15. The method (400) of claim 11, wherein said step of generating said first analog signals (430) includes:

processing said received signals to generate a digital transport stream (432);
processing said digital transport stream to generate analog baseband signals (434); and
modulating said analog baseband signals to generate said first analog signals (436).

16. The method (400) of claim 11, wherein said step of generating said second analog signals (440) includes the steps of:

processing said received signals to generate a digital transport stream (442);
encoding said digital transport stream to generate encoded digital signals (444);
converting said encoded digital signals to analog baseband signals (446); and
modulating said analog baseband signals to generate said second analog signals (448).

17. The method (400) of claim 11, further comprising a step of:
detecting an available frequency band on said transmission medium (420);
and

wherein said available frequency band is used to provide said first analog signals to said first client device.

18. The method (400) of claim 17, wherein said detecting step (420) includes scanning a plurality of frequency bands on said transmission medium to identify said available frequency band.

19. The method (400) of claim 17, wherein said detecting step (420) is performed based on a user input which selects said available frequency band.

20. The method (400) of claim 11, further comprising a step of:
detecting an available frequency band on said transmission medium (420);
and
wherein said available frequency band is used to provide said second analog signals to said second client device.

21. The method (400) of claim 20, wherein said detecting step (420) includes scanning a plurality of frequency bands on said transmission medium to identify said available frequency band.

22. The method (400) of claim 20, wherein said detecting step (420) is performed based on a user input which selects said available frequency band.

23. A server apparatus (20), comprising:
a receiving element (21) operative to receive broadcast signals;
first processing elements (28, 29) operative to generate first analog signals responsive to said received signals;
second processing elements (31-33) operative to generate second analog signals responsive to said received signals, wherein the first analog signals have a different encoding than the second analog signals;

wherein said first analog signals are provided to a first client device (50) via a transmission medium connecting said server apparatus (20) and said first client device (50); and

wherein said second analog signals are provided to a second client device (60) via said transmission medium connecting said server apparatus (20) and said second client device (60).

24. The server apparatus (20) of claim 23, wherein said transmission medium includes RG-59 cable.

25. The server apparatus (20) of claim 23, wherein said broadcast source includes a satellite source.

26. The server apparatus (20) of claim 23, wherein said broadcast source includes a digital terrestrial source.

27. The server apparatus (20) of claim 23, wherein said receiving element (21) is further operative to process said received signals to generate a digital transport stream.

28. The server apparatus (20) of claim 27, wherein said first processing elements (28, 29) include:

an A/V processor (28) operative to process said digital transport stream to generate analog baseband signals; and

a modulator (29) operative to modulate said analog baseband signals to generate said first analog signals.

29. The server apparatus (20) of claim 27, wherein said second processing elements (31-33) include:

an encoder (31) operative to encode said digital transport stream to generate encoded digital signals;

a digital-to-analog converter (32) operative to convert said encoded digital signals to analog baseband signals; and

a modulator (33) operative to modulate said analog baseband signals to generate said second analog signals.

30. The server apparatus (20) of claim 23, further comprising:

a controller (35) operative to detect available frequency bands on said transmission medium; and

wherein said available frequency bands are used to provide said first analog signals to said first client device (50) and to provide said second analog signals to said second client device (60).

31. The server apparatus (20) of claim 30, wherein said controller (35) scans a plurality of frequency bands on said transmission medium to detect said available frequency bands.

32. The server apparatus (20) of claim 8, wherein said controller (35) detects said available frequency bands based on a user input which selects said available frequency bands.